

WRITTEN TESTIMONY TO REJECT TITLE II of THE REAL ID ACT
October 25, 2007

Chairman Clemente, Members of the Committee:

I am Missouri State Representative Jim Guest, the founder of Legislators Against REAL ID (L.A.R.I.), a bipartisan coalition of state legislators opposed to Title II of the REAL ID Act. We believe the Real ID Act is a direct frontal assault on the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. I strongly urge you to reject the Real ID act as passed by our US Government. Constitutional experts are appalled by the Real ID Act, because it violates the 1st amendment, religious rights and illegal searches, the 4th amendment protection of our privacy rights and the 10th amendment, the states rights issue.

The requirement that all your personal data be shared or linked in a massive national database with all other states and territories means tens of thousands of employees will have access to your state's records. It is a recipe for disaster with massive identity theft and mission creep implications.

For example, the DHS in a conference call last week stated that under REAL ID a local post master would have the authority to define a post office as a federal building, meaning that without a REAL ID you would be unable to even enter that post office to ship your packages, get mail from a PO Box, or apply for a passport. Access to domestic flights and federal courts would likewise be denied.

We in Missouri have all ready taken steps with state level legislation to have a secure driver's license by requiring an applicant to present their original birth certificate. Although this has presented a hardship to those who have lost or never had a birth certificate, as well as women who have had a name change, it does provide a test of residency for our state's driver's license without having to also go along with the many unconstitutional provisions of REAL ID.

REAL ID also represents yet another Federal Mandate without funding. However, L.A.R.I. will oppose this program even if fully funded because of the loss of our state sovereignty, privacy rights, and other freedoms. We have a country founded on a Constitution and Bill of Rights, and if the Real ID Act is enacted we will be losing many of the liberties and unalienable rights our forefathers fought for. I urge you to join the many states that have courageously rejected this bill. Thank you.

Missouri Rep. Jim Guest